GOOD NEWS!

THE NEWSLETTER OF MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CLOVIS
"THE MISSION OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD."
1726 POLLASKY AVE CLOVIS, CA 93612

DECEMBER / JANUARY 559-299-4615 MEM-UMC.ORG

Watch for the

Head

Heart

Hand

Symbols to see how these ministries are targets to help your spiritual growth

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING PARTY

Nov. 29

Everyone is invited to help decorate the church Christmas tree and the sanctuary on Saturday Nov. 29 at 2:00-6:00 p.m.

There is a job for everyone: help set up the artificial tree tree decorations on the tree hang garlands and wreaths hang lights throughout the Sanctuary and narthex, hang Christmas lights around the building, etc.

We will end the evening with a light supper of soup and hot drinks.

(Undecorating will happen on January 11th from 2-5pm)

LIVE NATIVITY EVENT

DEC. 13-14, 2014

You and your family & friends are invited to the Live Nativity event between 6:00-8:00 p.m.

It is Memorial UMC's walk-through telling of the Christmas story, featuring live actors and animals, music, and t he story of Jesus' birth told through scripture.

Refreshments including cookies, cocoa, cider and hot dogs are provided at the end of each walk.

Make this an Annual Christmas tradition!

Advent Dinner

Come out on **SUNDAY, Dec. 7** for food, fellowship, and fun!

This potluck party will get you in the Christmas mood so don't miss it!

Decorating starts at 3pm
Gather at 5pm
Dinner at 5:30pm
Children and Youth Singing & Skit
Silent Auction

Look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact the church office to reserve a seat.

Let us know if you would like to host a table we look forward to enjoying your decorations.

Up-Coming Events

Parades

FRESNO AND CLOVIS CHRISTMAS PARADES

Memorial UMC has entered a Live Nativity float in BOTH the Fresno and Clovis Christmas Parades.

- The Clovis Parade is on Saturday Dec. 6 between 4:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- The Fresno Parade is on Saturday morning Dec. 13 between 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The parade float preparations will be on Friday evening Dec. 5th at the church, and again on Saturday morning Dec. 13th at the William's home at 3560 E Huntington Blvd., Fresno.

If you would like to help by helping build the float, being on the float, walking the parade route in Nativity costume, handing out Live Nativity flyers during the parades or driving the parade vehicle,

please call Connie Alfaro (cell 905-2240).

The First Friday Film Fest

6:30 p.m. 1st Friday Film Fest

Dec 5, 2014 -Elf

Jan. 2, 2015

December January Birthdays

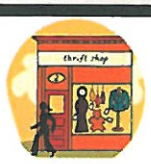
Wanda	Grimsley	12/01
Nancy	Enloe	12/02
Michael	Uwaoma	12/04
John	Her	12/05
Sharon	Hutchinson	12/05
Erin	Pachelbel	12/05
Wang Pao	Thao	12/05
Cecelia	Action	12/06
Dick	Gist	12/06
Karolyn	Lambert	12/10
Chon Koua	Xiong	12/10
Wilbert	Swieso	12/12
Cha Wa	Yang	12/15
Michelle	Yang	12/16
Geraldine	Montgomery	12/17
Kong Meng	Xiong	12/18
Hayes	Van-Remington	12/19
Bea	Bannister	12/20
Gwen	Emmick	12/22
Kristi	Harkins	12/22
Robert	Markland	12/23
Ricky	Xiong	12/23
Lois	Ames	12/29
Kevin	Lee	12/29
Seng	Lee	01/01
Shelby	Cox	01/04
Bill	Rose	01/04
Vernon	Crooke	01/06
Betty	Taylor	01/07
Andrew	Zastovnik	01/08
Christine	Uwaoma	01/09
Mary	Vollman	01/09
Lee	Xiong	01/10
Lee	Xiong	01/10
Wiley	Harkins	01/11
Pa Nhia	Yang	01/12
Pang Ying	Yang	01/12
Eric	Cannon	01/13
Chue	Thao	01/15
Margie	Cox	01/21
Jenny	Xiong	01/22
Matthew	Remer	01/23
Richard	Alexander	01/24
Sarah	Hutchinson	01/24
Norma	Crooke	01/27
Rebecca	Hutchinson	01/27
Rodger	Pachelbel	01/27
Rick	Snow	01/27
Corinne	Williams	01/29

Special Friends

As we gathered October 9th our thoughts centered around Matthew 14 when fear overtook the disciples seeing Jesus walking towards their boat on the rough lake water. They didn't trust their instincts. They needed proof. Peter called out, "Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water."
Jesus, answered, "Come." Today we cry out the same stricken plea. "Lord, are you there? Show me!" Somehow we can't quite bring
ourselves to trust him to be there when we need him, to help us endure the storms of life and to do the impossible, until somehow, when we finally tune out the howling wind and the furious waves that engulf us, we focus completely on his word. Then we hear him say, "Take courage! Don't be afraid." And the next thing we know we are out; of the boat, doing the impossible. We heard reports on our special friends. Bea Trainer and Wayne Golden celebrated birthdays. The search is on for Sharon Polson since her card was returned. During the past month we made
8 visits, sent 40 cards or letters, and made 38 phone visits. Assignments were made for
October visits. Our next meeting will be December 11th at 2pm.
Join in the caring mission.
Closing thought: Lord, I rust you! Take my hand and lead me over the troubled waters and into your presence. Amen

Blessings Lorraine May

Mission Thrift Shop



We need your donations!
We accept women's, men's, and children's clothing, underwear, & socks; small appliances; dishes; candy dishes; coffee cups; toys; purses; shoes; fabric; sewing notions; sheets; bath towels; dish towels; paintings; pictures; and tools.

Any furniture item that fits in the back seat of a car.

The "Shed" is open to receive donations
9am-3pm Tuesdays and Saturdays
Also on Sundays from 9am to 11am

Our upcoming sale days are
December 5th & 6th
&
January 2nd & 3rd

BALLROOM DANCE

There will be no Ballroom Dance for December but let Edie know if you plan to join in January
264-4665

Teams and Ministries

TAAG TEAM NACHOS AND PLANNING PARTY JAN. 24:

(Totally Awesome All Generations Team)
Let's start the year off right with NACHOS! Join your TAAG Team friends: January 24 at 5:00 p.m. at the church for

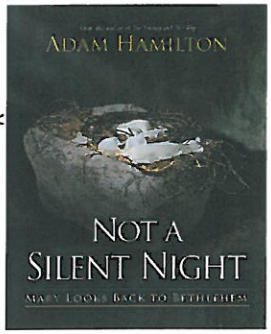
nachos bar/ table games/2015 event planning!

Bring your ideas and your appetite!
ALL ages are welcome &
encouraged to join the fun!

Christian Education:

Sunday Evening Children & Youth Classes To resume on January 18th

Adult Advent Class. Sunday's at 11



Imagine Jesus from Mary's point of view—proud of her son, in awe of his gifts and mission, guided by love for him as a person and so much more. In this book, Adam Hamilton begins at the end, with Mary at the crucifixion and resurrection; travels back in time as she witnesses his life and ministry; and ends at the beginning, with the Christ child born in a stable, Mary's beautiful baby. This year, experience Advent and Christmas with Mary

Once again we will be brightening Christmas for the children of our community with our

TOY DRIVE.

Please bring toys to the church before December 12th and support this outreach to our community.

Sign ups will be on December 13th from 9am –12pm

Distribution on December 24th at 10am

MUMC & Academy Bible Study

Join in studying

Adam Hamilton's

Christianity and World Religion

We will meet in the Lose Library at MUMC at 10:30 on the second Saturday each month.

Come join us for prayer and Bible study as we reconnect at a deeper level with our friends from Academy Methodist Church.

UMW News

December

1– Executive Board
9:00 AM, Library
9– Unit Meeting
10:00 AM
Fellowship Hall

January

5-Executive Board 9:00 AM, Library
20-Unit Meeting, 10:00 AM,
Fellowship Hall
21- Wesley , 10:00 AM, Fellowship Hall

RETREAT! RETREAT! RETREAT!

Central Valley District United Methodist Women Annual Spring Retreat

Evergreen Conference Center Oakhurst (E.C.C.O.)

"Landscapes of Christian Faith"

March 6, 7, & 8

Registration deadline February 18, 2015

For more information,

Registration Forms

Scholarship Forms

See the UMW Table in the Narthex

Finance

October Finance Report

As of October 31, we continue to pay all of our operating costs, but we are falling behind in our apportionments and using some reserve funds.

Income and expenses in October were both low, winding up just about even. General Fund income was $17,685.22 with $17,806.23 in expenses. However, there was a deficit of $5,627.64 as of the end of September so the ending deficit for the General Fund at the end of October was $5,748.65. This deficit was covered by funds being held in reserve which should be replaced to maintain a healthy financial position.

We have made 7 of the 10 "monthly" apportionments payments due thus far this year. We need to make five more apportionment payments before the end of the year. The Boutique and Thrift Shop contributions will cover much of our remaining balance. We are very grateful for the dedicated volunteers in these ongoing ministries. With their assistance we will likely pay our apportionments 100% for the third year in a row.

It is hoped that as the year comes to a close people will be able to continue to generously support the ministries of MUMC. We started 2014 with $8000 surplus, but find ourselves currently with a nearly $6000 deficit. We hope people will be able to "go an extra mile" in financial support so that we can end the year in the black.

Our amazing Youth! And Young Adults!!

Youth Group meets on Friday nights! Anyone who is in Jr High through unmarried young adults are welcome to come join us in the Bungalow from 7-9p.

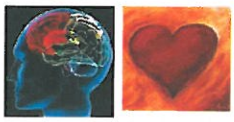
Hope to see you there!!

-Sara

Coffee Hour Team

Throughout the year the following persons have been committed and done a great job at having coffee, drinks and snacks ready for the social time between 10:30 and 11:00 every Sunday. These people are very much appreciated: Janet and Rich Bonzo for setup each Sunday; Sharon and Rick Hutchinson and Craig for closing down each Sunday. In addition Sharon and Rick make coffee and bring snacks for first Sunday; Connie Alfaro makes both coffee and brings snacks for second Sunday; Jim McClanahan makes coffee and Nancy Heberlein brings snacks on third Sunday. On third and fourth Sundays Carol February and Ruth Ehresman bring cookies and on fourth Sunday Jim and Gloria make coffee and bring snacks. If any member wishes to bring a cake or something to celebrate an event, try to let Gloria know. It helps to know ahead of time, but we can always accommodate something special. Thank you all for your faithfulness all year long. It makes a difference.

From the Pastor



Grace and peace be with you all!

I want to share with you to large items of importance to our congregation.

FIRST:

This past Tuesday I had the joy of participating in the BEST all-church conference meeting I have ever experienced! We began with a REALLY TASTY meal featuring spaghetti sauce prepared by Stan Jenanyan, and ladled over pasta, with salad, biscuits, beverage and dessert served by our youth. It was a wonderful meal! We were blessed to have our new District Superintendent, Rev. Debra Brady, join us for dinner.

About 7 pm we moved into the business of our meeting. Of special joy was having Rev. Akiko Mayaki-Stoner, pastor at our sister congregation UJCC on Villa St., preside over the proceedings.

In our elected leadership - we noted several unfilled positions and then had several people step up to fill the needs! Yea!

In our membership, we noted a loss of about 30 people in 2014 and a gain of 60! Our membership now stands at 310 people.

We baptized about 30 people in 2014 - over 20 of those were adults new to Christianity!

We approved the proposed salary packages for our pastors.

We gave permission for our Trustees and Finance Team to pursue refinancing our parsonage loan through the United Methodist Development Fund, with will save us 6 years of payments AND help to fund ministry throughout our denomination.

We agreed to officially ask the District Church Extension Society to assign the property at Academy to be incorporated into Memorial's properties for use in ministry. This will allow us to continue to do ministry at Academy and will allow us to enter into a more formal agreement with the Academy Foundation and Circle so that their work of the past decades can be honored and preserved. We will also be able to develop plans for the expansion both of ministry and for the teaching of the area's history at Academy church.

W ended the meeting in prayer at about 8:10 p.m. Following the meeting even MORE people came to me to volunteer to serve in leadership positions! Alleluia!

SECOND:

The Finance Team has done preliminary work on the 2015 budget. Each year we have a deficit between what our estimated income will be and what our anticipated financial obligations will be.

We have been using fundraisers to help raise our general budget income. Our Finance Team wants everyone to understand that from a fiscal perspective this is a stop-gap measure, NOT a long term solution. It is not financially healthy to continue this path. Already this year we are on the edge of ending the year in the black or red.

We have trimmed the budget as much as we can without reducing ministry. The Finance Team does NOT recommend reducing ministry.

I believe that God provides the resources we need to do the ministry God wants us to be doing. So here are some question I would like people to take to God in prayer:

Are there resources available to do ministry that we have been overlooking?

Are there ministries we are supposed to be doing that in which we are not currently engaged?

What other questions might we ask as we seek to expand our ability to "Show and Tell Jesus' Love Everywhere"?

-js

Memorial United Methodist
Church of Clovis
1726 Pollasky Ave
Clovis, CA 93612

Cookies!

We need cookies for our
"Live Nativity-Christmas Card for the Community"
Plan to bring cookies to the church
Dec 12th-14th

CHURCH PHONE: 559-299-4615
CHURCH E-MAIL: memumc@mem-umc.org

Special Worship Services in December

Sunday Worship Services will remain on our regular schedule throughout Dec.:

- ★ 9:30am Imagine
- ★ 11:00am Traditional
- ★ 3:00pm Hmong Language

Additionally we will have several special worship services.

December 7: at 2:00 pm at Academy's Advent Service

December 21: Combined Service
Longest Night
service begins with soup supper at

December 24: there are three different Christmas Eve Services:

- ★ 4 pm at Academy
  a beautiful setting for this inspirational worship
- ★ 7:30 pm at MUMC
  Especially designed to be"kid friendly"
- ★ 10:30 pm at MUMC
  candlelight, lessons & carols

December 31:
at 11:59 pm! - begin the New Year with your mind fixed on Jesus!

Every Sunday	Every Monday	Every Tuesday	Every Wednesday	Every Thursday	Every Friday	Every Saturday
*9:30am Imagine! Worship *10:30am Coffee Hour *11am Sunday School *11am Worship *3:30pm CHRIST church		*7pm Christian Book Club	~~*7:30 am Denny's Bible Study~~ will start again in Jan. *9am Boutique Group	*7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	*2pm Sierra Villa Rest Home *5:30pm Imagine Rehearsal *7pm Youth/Young Adults Group	

December 2014

	1 *9am UMW Exec board *7pm Imagine! Planning	2 *9am Thrift Shop Workday	3 *7pm SPRC	4	5 *8am Thrift Shop open *6:30pm First Friday Family Film Fest "Elf"	6 *8am Thrift Shop open *8am UMM breakfast *4pm Clovis Parade
7 *2pm Academy Advent Service *Advent Dinner 3pm Decorate! 5pm Gather 5:30pm Dinner	8 	9 *9am Thrift Shop Workday	10	11 *2:00 pm Special Friends	12 	13 *8 am Yoga *9am Fresno Parade *9am Worship Planning *9am Toy Drive Sign-ups *10am WWD Meeting *Live Nativity
14 *Second Sunday lunch *2pm Finance Work Team *Live Nativity	15	16	17 *7pm Pretty Church Mtg	18	19	20 *Kingdom Conf *9am Hmong New Year
21 *5pm Prayer Cell at Lorraine's *6pm Longest Night Service	22	23 *9am Thrift Shop Workday	24 *9am Toy Distribution *4pm Academy Service *7:30 pm MUMC Service *10:30 MUMC Service	25 Office Closed Christmas Day 	26	27 *8 am Yoga *10am WWD Meeting
28	29	30 *9am Thrift Shop Workday	31			

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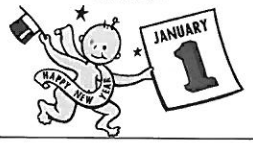
January 2015

				1 **New Year's Day Office Closed** 	2 *8am Thrift Shop open *6:30pm First Friday Family Film Fest	3 *8am Thrift Shop open *8am UMM breakfast
4	5 *9am UMW Exec board *6:30 pm Imagine! Planning	6	7	8 **News Letter Deadline!** *2:00 pm Special Friends	9	10 *8 am Yoga *9am Worship Planning *10am WWD Meeting *10:30 MUMC/Acad Bible Study *4pm Christian Ed Mtg
11 *Second Sunday lunch *1pm Leadership Training	12 6:30pm The Network	13 *9am Thrift Shop Workday	14 *7pm SPRC	15	16	17 *9am UMW
18 *2pm Finance Work Team *5pm Prayer Cell at Lorraine's *5pm Dinner *5:45 Christian Ed Hour	19 **Office Closed for Martin Luther King Day** 	20 *10am UMW	21 *1pm Wesley Circle *7pm Pretty Church Mtg	22	23	24 *8 am Yoga *10am WWD Meeting * TAAG 5pm Nachos 6pm Games & Planning
25 *5pm Dinner *5:45 Christian Ed Hour	26 *5:30pm AST	27 *9am Thrift Shop Workday	28	29	30 	31